

Cornelius P. Mayer (ed.) CAG-online: Corpus Augustinianum Gissense a Cornelio Mayer editum. Basel: Schwabe, 2014. ISBN 978-3-7965-2924-5. €250 (Single user license, 1<sup>st</sup> year); €50 (Single user license, per any following year); €1,950.00 (Campus annual license); €3,900.00 (Campus 5-year license).

Developed by *Zentrum für Augustinus-Forschung* and der Universität Würzburg (ZAF) in cooperation with *Kompetenzzentrum für elektronische Erschließungs- und Publikationsverfahren in den Geisteswissenschaften* an der Universität Trier and *Verlag Schwabe AG*, Basel.

An updated version of this previously downloadable resource now appears as CAG-online (or CAG-3), making the same digital library available through the web. This publication is a new and improved edition of the CAG data-set, prepared initially more than three decades ago by Cornelius Mayer, O.S.A. Online users may now subscribe to the software package at an annual rate, with institutional licenses available for up to a 5-years. Schwabe's price list can be found at the Universität Würzburg (ZAF) website.

With the new CAG-online tool, students and scholars now have easy access to the same vast collection of the works of Augustine. Simply by browsing to <http://www.cag-online.net/> end-users with a valid subscription may log-on to the entire library from any Internet-ready device, PC, tablet or mobile. However it is done, CAG-online makes the same high level of research in the primary texts of Augustine a more streamlined venture: the interface itself no longer presents any significant obstruction, and researchers may simply use the same digital collection directly from their web browser.

In terms of content, the CAG-online now further incorporates the *Sermones Dolbeau* as well as the *Sermones Erfurt*, two of the more significant additions to the library. As one might expect, the new version of CAG now assembles and reproduces the best available critical editions of the *Sermones Dolbeau* (thirty-one total sermons), as well as the *Sermones Erfurt* (six sermons, in all). While the resource list includes those texts under the heading "s., Sermones", one must look further below to an additional subheading labeled by the name of the respective editor to find the actual text. The benefit of such a system, of course, is to have available at a glance the same sermon ordered by its number within the set of sermons as a whole, indicated as one of the *Sermones Dolbeau* with its secondary designation in parentheses. When grouped together by editor, however, the primary reference is now the numerical value within that specific set, and its number in the overall oeuvre of sermons is indicated in second place.

Another major improvement is the bibliography of relevant secondary literature on the works of Augustine. While such data was accessible in CAG-2, the development of the revised edition advances Augustinian research. For example in the cases of the *Epistulae* and *Enarrationes*, additional data appears directly in line with the text, accessible from the panel of Augustine's Latin. This information is of the nature of dating the work in question, as well as providing relevant scholarship of authors who present differing views (e.g., La Bonnardière, Hombert and others). In the case of the *Epistulae*, the supplementary data identifies both the sender and recipient of the letter in question, as well as its date of composition. The assistance that these details provide to a scholar researching the letters of Augustine is self-evident.

What is not possible at the moment is access to the citations of relevant literature directly from the original sources. For this, one must use the separate tool "Bibliography" rather than that of "Content" – both are indicated by a simple tab at the head of the right-hand panel. If the scholarship listed is not exhaustive (the ZAF boasts the contents of CAG-3's bibliography to number ca. 33,000 entries), it will nevertheless provide ready reference to the most important works on any given topic. The bibliography includes works in English, German, French, Italian, and Dutch. In the entry for any piece of literature, the

essential information appears, as well as a reminder of the normal abbreviated form of the title of Augustine's work, in case the literature deals with a specific text rather than a more general inter-textual theme. Also of use is the mention of special key-words for cross-reference to other sources in the bibliography; for example "*ordo amoris*" and "*concupiscentia*" alert the researcher to further search terms under the "References" search box. These features are common to other databases, including previous editions of CAG, so that users should find the search process most familiar.

As a helpful incentive for skeptics or campus librarians who may wish to "test drive" the CAG-online, the ZAF offers certain critical features of the online tool in the form of a demo release, available *gratis*. In preview mode, the CAG-online offers access to the early Augustinian writing *De uera religione*. This offering should allow one sufficient opportunity to test the basic interface as well as to judge the quality of textual reproduction. ZAF also notes that secondary literature *limited to this "opusculum"* are accessible for demo users in the preview stage.

As an online-only database, the CAG-3 benefits also from the inherent updateability of any Internet resource. The publishers clearly indicate all future updates will be provided at no additional cost, and this added assurance should persuade potential users of the dynamic value of the CAG-online. Because it is a non-static platform, users will have immediate access to the best available electronic resource for the study of the works of Augustine. Future improvements include the option of engaging a foreign language interface, beyond the German or English that is presently available. Those additions will improve the scope and usefulness of the CAG, which already reaches broadly to cover the extent of modern Augustinian research.

While a comparison of print editions with the online dataset may be advisable, the quality and level of care given to this project has achieved a stable and reliable working Latin text. The ability to search the complete works of Augustine for key terms in his Latin will more than repay the cost of subscription. This tool should be included in all digital collections of libraries that support research faculties of philosophy, theology, classics, and history.